SL2036
SN/09/506802   Examiner: A. Etienne

Proposed Amendment - Claim 1

      1.   A method for transmitting a data stream between a host controller and a peripheral device over an extended distance; said method comprising:

a. feeding a first original, outgoing digital signal from a host controller to a local expander unit;

b. [optionally] converting said outgoing digital signals into a converted outgoing signal, or using said outgoing digital signal as a converted outgoing signal, which converted outgoing signal has [having] a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;

c. transmitting [either said outgoing digital signal or] said converted outgoing signal, as a outgoing transmission signal, over a signal distribution system;

d. receiving said outgoing transmission signal at a remote expander unit;

e. [optionally] converting or using said outgoing transmission signal to re-create said first original outgoing digital signal;

f. delivering said first original outgoing digital signal from said remote expander to at least one peripheral device;

g. receiving, at said remote expander, a reply digital signal from said peripheral device;

h. [optionally] converting said reply digital signal into a converted reply signal, or using said reply digital signal as a converted reply signal, which converted reply signal has [having] a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;

i. transmitting said [reply digital signal or said] converted reply signal as a reply transmission signal over said signal distribution system;

j. receiving said reply transmission signal at said local expander;

k. [optionally] converting or using said reply transmission signal to re-create said original reply digital signal;

l. storing said reply digital signal as a stored reply digital signal until the receipt of a subsequent original, outgoing digital signal from said host controller, which subsequent signal is the same as, or similar to, said first original outgoing digital signal; and

m. forwarding said stored reply digital signal to said host controller in response to said subsequent original outgoing digital signal.

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